



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

22 AUGUST 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Alameda – Fliers with Swastika, ‘Hate Message’ Found In Neighborhood

(U) Fliers featuring a swastika and a “hate message” were discovered on the sidewalk of Sherman Street on 20 August, police said. The discovery of the fliers came just days after windows at Temple Israel of Alameda were broken in what police have described as a hate crime. The fliers contained a message against Muslims, and as of now, do not appear to be related to the Temple Israel incident, according to police.

SOURCE: 21 August 2017, [Mercury News](#)

(U) Sacramento – California Leaders Call for Hearing on White Supremacy

(U) California lawmakers will hold a series of hearings next month to assess the rise of white supremacy in the state and to determine if there are any laws needed to help control violent outbreaks at public rallies. University of California and California State University officials will be asked to testify at the hearings about how they are handling requests to have neo-Nazi and far-right groups or speakers appear for events on campus. The California Highway Patrol will also be asked to appear at the hearings to talk about best practices to avoid violent clashes at future white supremacist demonstrations.

SOURCE: 21 August 2017, [SF Gate](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Texas – Authorities Charges Man with Trying To Blow Up Confederate Statue

(U) Houston – Authorities charged a 25-year-old man yesterday with trying to blow up a Confederate statue. On 19 August, a park ranger spotted Andrew Schneck kneeling in bushes in front of the General Dowling Monument in Houston's Hermann Park. In Schneck's possession were a timer, wires, duct tape, and two types of explosive including nitroglycerin—a powerful explosive—according to the prosecutors. If convicted of trying to maliciously damage or destroy property receiving federal financial assistance, Schneck faces up to 40 years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

SOURCE: 21 August 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) New York – Identity Thieves Hijack Cellphone Accounts to Go After Virtual Currency

(U) New York – Hackers have discovered that one of the most central elements of online security — the mobile phone number — is also one of the easiest to steal. In a growing number of online attacks, hackers have been calling up Verizon, T-Mobile US, Sprint and AT&T and asking them to transfer control of a victim's phone number to a device under the control of the hackers. Once they get control of the phone number, hackers can reset the passwords on every account that uses the phone number as a security backup. A particularly concentrated wave of attacks has hit those with virtual currency accounts. In January 2013, there were 1,038 such incidents reported; by January 2016, that number had increased to 2,658, according to Federal Trade Commission data.

SOURCE: 21 August 2017, [New York Times](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Lebanon – Authorities Monitored Australia Bomb Plot Suspects

(U) Beirut – Lebanon monitored the brothers accused of plotting to blow up a flight from Sydney to Abu Dhabi for more than a year and coordinated on it with the Australian government for a lengthy time, the Lebanese interior minister said yesterday. Australian police charged Khaled Khayat and Mahmoud Khayat this month with two counts of planning a terrorist attack after conducting raids to disrupt what authorities described as an ISIS-inspired plot to bomb an Etihad Airways flight. Lebanese Interior Minister Nohad Machnouk told a news conference that one of the men's brothers, Tareq Khayat, had moved to the ISIS stronghold of Raqqa in Syria and become a commander in the jihadist group more than a year ago. Khaled, Mahmoud, and another brother under surveillance, Amer Khayat, were all living in Australia but occasionally visited Lebanon.

SOURCE: 21 August 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) North Korea – North Korea Shipments to Syrian Chemical Arms Agency Intercepted

(U) Pyongyang – Two North Korean shipments to a Syrian government agency responsible for the country's chemical weapons program were intercepted in the past six months, according to a confidential United Nations report on North Korea sanctions violations. The report by a panel of independent UN experts, which was submitted to the UN Security Council earlier this month, gave no details on when or where the interdictions occurred or what the shipments contained. "The panel is investigating reported prohibited chemical, ballistic missile and conventional arms cooperation between Syria and the DPRK (North Korea)," the experts wrote in the 37-page report.

SOURCE: 21 August 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Russia – Turla APT Group Adapts JavaScript Malware for Use in G20-Themed Attack

(U) Moscow – Security experts at Proofpoint have collected evidence that suggests that the Turla APT group is conducting a new espionage campaign. The experts discovered the KopiLuwak backdoor—a JavaScript malware—earlier this year while the APT was delivering it to at least one victim leveraging a document containing an official letter from the Qatar Embassy in Cyprus to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cyprus. Turla, a Russian cyber espionage APT group that has been active since at least 2007, is known for targeting government organizations and private businesses. The list of victims includes the Swiss defense firm RUAG and the US Central Command. Currently, the APT group appears to be actively targeting G20 participants and those interested in its activities including politicians, member nations, and journalists.

SOURCE: 19 August 2017, [Security Affairs](#)

(U) Spain – Police Track Down, Kill Barcelona Attacker

(U) Subirats – Spanish police shot dead a violent extremist yesterday who killed 13 people with a van in Barcelona last week, ending a five-day manhunt for the perpetrator of Spain's deadliest attack in over a decade. Police said they tracked 22-year-old Younes Abouyaaqoub to a rural area near Barcelona and shot him after he held up what looked like an explosives belt and shouted "Allahu Akbar". ISIS claimed responsibility for last week's attack, which police believe was planned by a dozen accomplices, including a brother and two first cousins of the Moroccan-born Abouyaaqoub. Of the other 11 in the militant cell involved in the 17 August attack, five were shot dead by police hours after the van attack, two were killed and one injured the day before in a blast in a house where they were apparently making explosives, and three were arrested elsewhere.

SOURCE: 21 August 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Mexico – Mexican Soldiers Seize 140 Pounds of Fentanyl at US Border

(U) San Luis Rio Colorado - Soldiers in northern Mexico say they have seized a large stash of the powerful opioid fentanyl from a truck near the US border. The Mexican Army's Second Military Zone says soldiers at a highway checkpoint across the border from Yuma, Arizona, found over 140 pounds of fentanyl in a freight truck. The army said the truck was heading from Mexico City to Tijuana when it was stopped at the San Luis Rio Colorado checkpoint. They reported also finding almost 30,000 pills, apparently also containing fentanyl.

SOURCE: 22 August 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-874-1100.

Warning: This document is the exclusive property of the State Threat Assessment Center (STAC) and is UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (U//FOUO). It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the California Public Records Act (Govt. Code Sec. 6250-6270). It is to be controlled, stored, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with STAC policy relating to U//FOUO information and is not to be released to the public, the media, or other personnel who do not have a valid "need-to-know" without prior approval of an authorized STAC official. No portion of this report should be furnished to the media, either in written or verbal form.

This document contains excerpts of suspicious activities and incidents of interest to the STAC as obtained from open and unclassified sources.